

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A video decoding method comprising:
receiving an encoded data including:

(a) a first mode information for each of macroblocks, the first mode information indicating (a-1) a single prediction referring to a reference frame or (a-2) a composite prediction referring to a plurality of reference frames,

(b) a second mode information for each frame or each set of a plurality of frames, the second mode information indicating (b-1) an average value prediction or (b-2) a linear extrapolation prediction or linear interpolation prediction, and

(c) a predictive error signal;

generating a predictive macroblock by:

(1) referring to a reference macroblock of a reference frame when the first mode information indicates the single prediction,

(2) averaging a plurality of reference macroblocks of the plurality of reference frames based on the motion vector data when the first mode information indicates the ~~single~~ composite prediction and the second mode information indicates the average value prediction, and

(3) performing a linear extrapolation or linear interpolation using a plurality of reference macroblocks of a plurality of reference frames based on the motion vector data when the first mode information indicates the ~~single~~ composite prediction and the second mode information indicates a linear extrapolation prediction or linear interpolation prediction;

generating a decoded macroblock by adding the predictive macroblock and the predictive error signal.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A video decoding apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive an encoded data including:

(a) a first mode information for each macroblock, the first mode information indicating (a-1) a single prediction referring to a reference frame or (a-2) a composite prediction referring to a plurality of reference frames,

(b) a second mode information for each frame or each set of a plurality frames, the second mode information indicating (b-1) an average value prediction or (b-2) a linear extrapolation prediction or linear interpolation prediction, and

(c) a predictive error signal;

a generating unit configured to generate a predictive macroblock by:

(1) referring to a reference macroblock of a reference frame when the first mode information indicates the single prediction,

(2) averaging a plurality of reference macroblocks of the plurality of reference frames based on the motion vector data when the first mode information indicates the ~~single~~ composite prediction and the second mode information indicates the average value prediction, and

(3) performing a linear extrapolation or linear interpolation using a plurality of reference macroblocks of a plurality of reference frames based on the motion vector data when the first mode information indicates the ~~single~~ composite prediction and the second mode information indicates a linear extrapolation prediction or linear interpolation prediction; and

a generating unit configured to generate a decoded macroblock by adding the predictive macroblock and the predictive error signal.